



2015 Keynote Speaker Biographies



Dr. William H. Dietz, MD, PhD is the director of the Sumner M. Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness at the Milken Institute School of Public Health at the George Washington University, where he accelerates the school's search for solutions to obesity and other public health problems that are on the rise not just in the U.S., but worldwide.

Before his appointment at GWU, he served as the Director of the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity at the CDC. Prior to his appointment to the CDC, he was a Professor of Pediatrics at the Tuft's University School of Medicine, and Director of Clinical Nutrition at the Floating Hospital of New England Medical Center Hospitals. He received his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1970 and a Ph.D. in Nutritional Biochemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

He is a member of the Institute of Medicine, a recipient of the Holroyd-Sherry award from the American Academy of Pediatrics for his contributions to the field of children and the media, and the recipient of the 2006 Nutrition Research award from the AAP for outstanding research in pediatric nutrition.



Dr. Sharon Saydah is a senior scientist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the Division of Diabetes Translation and a Commander in the United States Public Health Service. Her work focuses public health research for prevention of diabetes and its complications. She has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications, government reports and book chapters on the topic and is a recognized expert in national diabetes epidemiology. She has received Achievement Medals from the US Public Health Service for her work on both diabetes and kidney disease surveillance. She directs the National Surveillance Program for Diabetes in Youth and the SEARCH for Diabetes in Youth project. In addition she leads multiple analytic projects designed to estimate the burden and consequences of diabetes and kidney disease. She serves on the steering committees for the following CDC initiatives related to chronic disease surveillance: Chronic Kidney Disease, Composite State-Wide Estimates of Chronic Disease Risk Factor Control, Developing Online Toolkits on state specific diabetes burden.



Dr. Lisa Cooper is the James F. Fries Professor of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. A general internist, social epidemiologist, and health services researcher, Dr. Cooper directs the Johns Hopkins Center to Eliminate Cardiovascular Health Disparities, where she and her multidisciplinary team work with a broad group of stakeholders from healthcare and the community to achieve the center's namesake goal. Their efforts, funded by the National Institutes of Health, include examination of how racial, ethnic, and income disparities in social determinants and healthcare influence cardiovascular outcomes and implementation of rigorous clinical trials to identify effective, patient-centered solutions to alleviate these disparities.



William Tilburg, J.D. is the Deputy Director of the Legal Resource Center for Public Health Policy at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. He joined the Legal Resource Center in September 2011; first as a postgraduate fellow and more recently as staff attorney. As Deputy Director he manages the Legal Resource Center's two federal grants and provides technical legal assistance on tobacco control, obesity prevention and other public health law issues to legislators, state and local government agencies, health advocacy groups and Maryland residents.



Aaron Wachhaus is an assistant professor in the College of Public Affairs, University of Baltimore. He is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University; St. John's College, Annapolis; and, Penn State University. A governance theorist, he is interested in social and organizational behavior in the lack of an established authority structure. He studies emergent and self-organizing organizations and developing communities. He is particularly interested in networks that span organizational and sectorial boundaries. He advocates open source principles, network management, and the use of platforms to facilitate effective cross-sector collaboration.



2015 Breakout Presenter Biographies

Sandy Aubert, RN is the Director of the Asthma Control Program at St. Mary's County Health Department. She is a certified Asthma Educator and has held positions at Head Start, St. Joseph Mercy Home Care, University of Michigan Mott Children's Hospital, Children's Hospital National Medical Center, Middlesex Home Health Care, and Mount Auburn Hospital.



Dr. Andrea Backes was the pioneer PGY2 in Continuum of Care at Sharp HealthCare in San Diego, which was awarded a Best Practice in Medication Management in Care Transitions by ASHP and APhA in 2012. After her PGY2, she moved cross-country and established the Care Transitions program at Frederick Memorial Hospital in Frederick, Maryland. In 2013, the Care Transitions program received the Case In Point Platinum Award, which recognizes the most successful and innovative case management programs working to improve health care across the care continuum.

Heather Buritsch has worked for University of Maryland Extension since 2005, first as a Horticulture Educator and Master Gardener Coordinator in Talbot County, then came to work for the Food Supplement Nutrition Education program in 2012 as the Statewide Gardening for Nutrition Coordinator.

Dr. Joseph A. Ciotola, Jr. has been the Health Officer for Queen Anne's County since April, 2012. He also serves in the position of County Department of Emergency Services Medical Director, where he inspired the recent inception of the Queen Anne's County Mobile Integrated Community Health Pilot Program. The Department of Health and the Department of Emergency Services have recently partnered to provide home visits to individuals identified through 911 calls who may need assistance with obtaining linkages to community resources in order to maintain optimal health and reduce re-admissions to the hospital. He practiced at the Orthopedic Associates of Central Maryland, P.A., and Baltimore, Maryland from August, 1978 through May, 2006.

Angela Cochran, MS, is the Director of Chronic Disease Prevention and Control at the St. Mary's County Health Department. She worked in cancer research at VCU's Massey Cancer Center in Richmond, VA, and as the program coordinator for a clinical research health and wellness program through the Department of Pediatrics at VCU. In 2008, she was the Clinical Lead for the Grace Anne Dorney Pulmonary and Cardiac Rehabilitation Center and the hospital Clinical Educator at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital.

Erin Braunscheidel Duru is a registered dietitian and the Assistant Director for Maryland's Food Supplement Nutrition Education Program (SNAP-Ed) whose focus is to provide nutrition education programs to low income populations. She works on coordinating state-wide nutrition education programs, most recently utilizing innovative technology and social media strategies such as mobile technology to reach participants.



Leigh Ann Eagle is the Executive Director of the Living Well Center of Excellence at MAC, Inc. She directs the Health and Wellness programs, works with the Million Hearts grant thru a partnership with the Wicomico County Health Department and Peninsula Regional Medical Center and is a member of regional planning groups on Chronic Disease. She created the Mid Shore Coalition for Chronic Disease, & has joined the DHMH Community Navigation Network, and the Network for Health Care of the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore.



Dr. Ashraf Fouad, DDS, served as Assistant then Associate Professor of Endodontology at the University of Connecticut Health Center from 1992 – 2004, and as Chair of the Department of Endodontics, Prosthodontics and Operative Dentistry at the University of Maryland, since 2005. He has lectured widely in the U.S. and internationally, and his research interests include: endodontic molecular microbiology, effectiveness of antibiotic therapy, dental pulp regeneration, endodontic treatment outcomes and the pathogenesis and healing of periapical lesions in the host with normal and compromised systemic health.



Stephanie Grutzmacher is the Research Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland's School of Public Health and is the PI on the Maryland Health and Nutrition Literacy Study. Her work focuses on food security, nutrition literacy, and the development and evaluation of family, school, and community based nutrition education programs for low-income populations.



Dr. Gary D. Hack is an Associate Professor in the Department of Endodontics, Prosthodontics, and Operative Dentistry at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD). He has been a faculty member at UMSOD for the past 30 years, and currently serves as the Director of Clinical Simulation. In view of the epidemic rise in chronic diseases, especially diabetes, Dr. Hack has begun a program to educate all students at UMSOD about the bidirectional relationship between diabetes and periodontal disease and the importance of understanding this prevalent disease as a dental professional.

Rebecca L. Jones, RN, BSN, MSN assured the provision of health services to the citizens of Worcester County as the coordinator for the Cancer Prevention Education Screening and Treatment (CPEST) program at the Worcester County Health Department from 2001 until 2011. In 2011, she accepted a Nurse Manager's position with the Worcester County Health Department and since that time has provided managerial oversight and guidance for the adult services programs.

Jim Keough is the President of RFPconsult a healthcare software technology firm and the creator of CareSynthesis. Jim founded RFPconsult in 1994 to provide Internet based healthcare solutions and, since 2010, has focused on providing patient-centric systems for the Care Coordinators and Patient Navigators. Prior to 1994, Jim was involved in commercial on-line systems in the Retail, Automotive, Banking and Telecommunications arenas.

Allison MacKenzie is the Director of the Maryland Metabolic Institute at Saint Agnes Hospital. In this capacity, she has responsibility for Saint Agnes' out-patient metabolic and cardiovascular prevention and management programs including the Diabetes Center, the bariatric surgery service line, the Heart Failure Center and the Cardiac Rehabilitation program. Additionally, she provides oversight for community and faith-based chronic disease interventions including the Heart-to-Heart and Diabetes Prevention programs.

Andrea Mathias, M.D., MPH, is the Deputy Health Officer and Medical Director of the Worcester County Health Department. She provides medical oversight of the county's public health programs including population health, communicable disease, emergency preparedness, family planning, children's dental, and opioid overdose fatality prevention programs in Worcester County.



Lynnzy McIntosh is Executive Director at the Consortium for Older Adult Wellness (COAW). She is a part of the COAW team working with the Maryland Department of Aging's Living Well Grant and has also worked with the Michigan PATH and Chronic Disease Programs, WIHA- the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging, the New Mexico Primary Care Association, the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors, and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging. She sits on the National Council on Aging's workgroup on Community-Clinical Integration and is proud to be a member of the PCPCC Patients, Families, and Consumers Center cabinet.



Karen Poisker, MSN, MBA, NEA-BC began at Peninsula Regional in 1975 as a nurse in the Special Care and Intensive Care Units. Karen served as the Vice President for Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer for twenty-three years and has served as Vice President for Population Health Management since May of 2014. As VP, she directs and enhances initiatives for patient education, community-based wellness, reducing readmissions and chronic disease coaching and case management.



Dr. Brit Saksvig is currently working on several projects related to the influence of social networks on physical activity and obesity interventions. The first project is investigating how parent networks can be mobilized to advocate for school-based obesity prevention efforts, and the second project is exploring the relationship between African American women's physical activity and the physical activity of their support networks.



Brittany Schuler is a PhD student at the University of Maryland, Baltimore School of Social Work. She received her MSW from Temple University and is a licensed social worker. Brittany is currently the project coordinator of the Maryland Building Blocks for Health Children project, which is a childhood obesity prevention intervention under the Division of Growth and Nutrition in UMB's School of Medicine.



Dr. Payam Sheikhattari is an Associate Professor at Morgan State University School of Community Health and Policy. He is a Principal Investigator of a three-year community-based participatory research project, and a five-year research-training award both funded by the National Institute of Health. He has collaborated with global organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as with the Iranian public health system and NGOs.

Jared Smith, M.A., NRP, began volunteering as an Emergency Medical Technician when he was 16 years old. He later began to work as a Paramedic with the Queen Anne's County Department of Emergency Services, where he now serves as an Acting Supervisor. In 2013 he was chosen as the Queen Anne's County Department of Emergency Services representative to participate in the development of the Mobile Integrated Community Health Pilot Program. He was appointed the EMS Program Manager, where he manages the EMS aspect of MICH. He has presented the program as a keynote speaker for the Maryland Medical Directors Symposium and as a featured presenter at the Zoll Summit in Denver, Colorado.



Dr. Patricia Van Story spent three years as a Medical / Dental Fellow at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, a Branch of the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland. She has utilized this training in her twenty plus years in private practice, her practice in corrections and as a Program Manager / Dental Director for a Public Health Facility in the State of Maryland.

